

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5486

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PFOR

SUBJ: ONE-SIDED IRISH PRESS REACTION TO US/EC ISSUES

1. IRISH PRESS REACTION TO CURRENT US/EC ISSUES, HAS BEEN ONE-SIDED. ALL MAIN DUBLIN PAPERS HAVE NOW DISCUSSED SUBJECT, BUT THERE IS NOT SUCH UNDERSTANDING OF ATLANTICIST VIEW-POINT. EDITORIAL IN PRO-OPPOSITION "IRISH PRESS," FOR EXAMPLE, SAYS THAT EUROPEANS "HAVE A RIGHT TO UNITE AND SPEAK UP FOR OURSELVES" WHEN THEY ARE "MENACED" BY BOTH SUPER-POWERS, AS AT PRESENT. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, OTHER COMMENTS ARE SCARCELY MORE PERCEPTIVE.

2. AN ARTICLE BY DENNIS KENNEDY IN "IRISH TIMES," FAILS EXPLAIN
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OTHER SIDE BUT AT LEAST SHEDS SOME LIGHT ON IRISH POLICY. KENNEDY

(POSSIBLY WITH HELP OF OFFICIAL BACKGROUNDING) SEEMS TO VIEW AVERSION TO NATO AS MAIN IRISH MOTIVATION. HE SUGGESTS THAT FONMIN HAS NO INTEREST IN AN ATLANTIC COMMUNITY AND NO WISH FOR EC TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH US THAT ARE CLOSER THAN RELATIONS WITH OTHER AREAS OF WORLD. KENNEDY BELIEVES THAT IT IS A MISTAKE TO TALK OF "FRANCE AGAINST THE REST," WHEN IN FACT "DUBLIN IS, IF ANYTHING, EVEN MORE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO KISSINGER'S VIEWS THAN IS PARIS, IN THEORY, AT LEAST." REPORTER DOES REGRET THAT FRENCH HAVE NOT GIVEN "A LEAD TO EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN OTHER FIELDS" SO THAT FRANCO-IRISH THEORIES COULD BE MORE EASILY DEFENDED.

3. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM OTHER EMBASSY'S REPORTING, DUBLIN IS ONLY EUROPEAN CAPITAL WITH NO BALANCED EDITORIAL DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE. WE PLAN MENTION THIS TO FONOFF, SINCE LOCAL PRESS RELIES HEAVILY ON OFFICIAL BACKGROUNDING.

4. WE THINK REPORTER KENNEDY IS RIGHT IN VIEWING AVERSION TO NATO AS A LARGE FACTOR IN IRISH POLICY. SORENSON

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